

WE CLAIM:

1. A tunnel port apparatus comprising:

a guideneedle assembly;

a port cannula overlying said guideneedle assembly, said port cannula having a valve apparatus with a serial gas-check assembly;

an obturator rod within said port cannula and overlying said guideneedle assembly; and

a support frame including an elongated member portion having proximal and distal ends and from which support members extend therefrom supporting said guideneedle assembly and port cannula.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said guideneedle assembly is joined to said support frame at said proximal end of said support frame.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said serial gas-check assembly comprises at least one apertured membrane and a non-return valve.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support frame includes a track along at least a portion of said elongated member portion
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said obturator rod has a cap at its proximal end.
6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said cap further comprises at least one extension member.
7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said at least one extension member is a guide that follows a track in said support frame.
8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said at least one extension member is a push tab.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support frame includes at least one disconnect site along said elongated member portion.
10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said guideneedle assembly includes a hollow core guideneedle.
11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said hollow core guideneedle includes a solid core obturator needle.
12. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a disconnect site.
13. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a locking mechanism along said elongated member portion of said support frame.
14. A method for obtaining access to an internal space, comprising:
 - preparing a subject for surgery;
 - providing a tunnel port apparatus comprising a support frame having separable proximal and distal portions and a disconnect site, said tunnel port apparatus having a valve apparatus including a serial gas check assembly;
 - inserting a guideneedle through an incision;
 - advancing a port cannula and obturator rod over the guideneedle into said internal space;
 - disconnecting said proximal and distal portions of said frame;
 - withdrawing said hollow core guideneedle and obturator rod; and
 - leaving said port cannula with said distal portion of said frame to provide access to said internal space.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein said insertion is at a skin incision.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of providing a laparoscopic port.
17. The method of claim 14 wherein said internal space is a peritoneal space.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein said insertion of said guideneedle is inserted through at least one muscular layer.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein said muscular layer is an anterior rectus muscle.
20. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of angling said guideneedle towards a pelvis.
21. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of introducing a catheter to said internal space via said port cannula.
22. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of introducing a shunt.
23. The method of claim 20 wherein said angling results in forming a tunnel through said anterior rectus muscle.
24. The method of claim 14 wherein said internal space is a gastrointestinal space.
25. The method of claim 14 wherein said internal space is at least one of a hollow viscus, abscess and lymphocele.
26. The method of claim 14 wherein said serial gas check assembly comprises at least one apertured member and at least one non-return valve.
27. A tunnel port apparatus comprising:

a support frame including an elongated member portion having a proximal support member and an apertured distal support member extending from

said elongated member portion, said elongated member portion including a track;

a guideneedle assembly attached to said proximal support member; and

a port cannula over said guideneedle assembly and supported by said apertured distal support member, said port cannula having a valve apparatus with a serial gas-check assembly.